



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Air Branch

Air Branch Inspection Report
Unannounced Partial Compliance Evaluation
G & C Autobody and Repair
11812 South 71 Highway, Suite B
Kansas City, Missouri 64137

Inspection Date(s):
September 7, 2022

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Authorized for Release by:

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CONTENTS

INSPECTION OVERVIEW	3
INSPECTION OBJECTIVE	3
FACILITY CONTACT INFORMATION	3
FACILITY OVERVIEW	3
FACILITY OPERATIONS SUMMARY	3
FIELD ACTIVITIES SUMMARY	4
INVESTIGATION OBSERVATIONS AND POTENTIAL FINDINGS	4

TABLES

Table 1. FACILITY CONTACT INFORMATION	3
Table 2. APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS	3

APPENDICES

- A Confidential Business Information (1 page)
- B Field Photographs (11 pages)
- C Spray Gun Operation Manual (8 pages)

INSPECTION OVERVIEW

INSPECTION OBJECTIVE

The objective of the partial compliance evaluation (PCE) inspection was to determine compliance of the facility with the Clean Air Act (CAA). The inspection was part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Creating Cleaner Air for Communities National Compliance Initiative.

This inspection was conducted by Luke Rodriguez, EPA Region 7, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, Air Branch.

FACILITY CONTACT INFORMATION

Table 1 lists the primary facility contacts.

Table 1. FACILITY CONTACT INFORMATION		
Name, Title	Phone No.	Email Address
Courtney Hockman, Co-Owner	816-304-3233	Courtney.Hockman@gmail.com
David Stephens, Painter		

FACILITY OVERVIEW

The code of federal regulations at 40 CFR 63 Subpart HHHHHH - National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Paint Stripping and Miscellaneous Surface Coating Operations at Area Sources, regulates certain materials and activities associated with paint stripping, autobody refinishing and spray coating applications. Enforcement of this subpart of the CFR has not been delegated to the state of Missouri. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) has not issued any permits to this facility.

The facility is subject to the following regulations and standards (**Table 2**):

Table 2. APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS	
Code of Federal Regulation	Standard Name
40 CFR Part 63	Subpart A, General Provisions; Subpart HHHHHH, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Paint Stripping and Miscellaneous Surface Coating Operations at Area Sources

FACILITY OPERATIONS SUMMARY

G & C LLC operates a full-service mechanic and collision repair shop in Kansas City, Missouri. Collision repair often includes spray coating of new parts or repaired or resurfaced areas of vehicles. The facility does not conduct any paint stripping operations as automotive paint is typically applied on top of existing paint. Sanding is used to smooth areas prior to painting as

necessary but is not used to remove paint. Equipment in use at this facility includes the spray booth, spray guns and associated equipment, and spray gun cleaning equipment.

FIELD ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

I arrived at the facility on September 7, 2022 and made entry at the front office at 1:20 PM. I introduced myself and I presented my credentials to Ms. Hockman who identified herself as the co-owner of the facility. I conducted an opening conference during which I explained that the purpose of the visit was to conduct an inspection to determine compliance with the CAA. I explained that after asking for some general business information, I would observe emission units and review associated records demonstrating compliance with any possible applicable regulations for the facility. I explained to Ms. Hockman that the facility could make a claim of business confidentiality and provided her with a Confidential Business Information form (**Appendix A**). Ms. Hockman did not make a claim of confidentiality.

I was given a facility tour by Ms. Hockman. I reviewed the equipment associated with the spray coating operations at the facility and any required record keeping for the equipment for compliance with the regulations noted in Table 2 only. I conducted a closing conference with Ms. Hockman, and I provided the facility with a copy of the Small Business Resources information sheet.

INVESTIGATION OBSERVATIONS AND POTENTIAL FINDINGS

Ambient weather, site conditions and activities were documented in field records. All photographs are attached as **Appendix B**. I made the following observations during the inspection. I discussed all observations with facility representatives during the closeout meeting unless otherwise noted in the observation description. This inspection was conducted and photographs in **Appendix B** taken in accordance with SOP 2312.01E.

These observations are not final compliance determinations. The EPA Region 7 Air Branch case review team will make the final compliance determinations based on its review of this report and other technical, regulatory, and facility information.

Facility and Operations Applicability (§63.11169) and (§63.11170)

This facility is an area source of HAP and performs one or more of the activities identified in §63.11170(a)(1) through (a)(3). Specifically, this facility performs spray application of coatings as defined in §63.11180, to motor vehicles and mobile equipment including operations that are located in stationary structures at fixed locations [§63.11170(a)(2)].

Ms. Hockman said that this facility does not perform paint stripping using Methyl Chloride (MeCl) [§63.11170(a)(1)].

I was unable to determine whether the facility performs spray application of coatings that contain the target HAP, as defined in § 63.11180, to a plastic and/or metal substrate on a part or product [§63.11170(a)(3)]. According to Ms. Hockman, paint is purchased on an as needed basis to

match paint according to job specifics. G & C only paints standard consumer automobiles and buys off the counter paint to match existing paint. There were two paints currently in use and these are visible in **Appendix B** photos 9 and 10. Ms. Hockman was unable to say categorically that they had never or would never purchase paint that contained the target HAP.

This facility conducts autobody refinishing operations that encompass motor vehicle and mobile equipment spray-applied surface coating operations [§63.11169(b)]. Ms. Hockman estimated that the facility paints on average the equivalent of 3 whole automobiles per month. This facility does not conduct any of the exempt activities listed in §63.11169(d)(1) through (d)(6).

Equipment at Facility (§63.11171)

Equipment in use at this facility includes the spray booth, spray guns and associated equipment, and spray gun cleaning equipment. The facility does not do any mixing of paint as they purchase only pre-mixed paint. The facility does not contain any equipment used for storage, handling, recovery, or recycling of cleaning solvent or waste paint, or equipment used for paint stripping at paint stripping facilities using paint strippers containing MeCl.

New or Existing Facility (§63.11171)

According to Ms. Hockman, G & C Automotive began operations at this location approximately 3 years ago. According to 40 CFR § 63.11171(c)(2) the facility is a new source.

General Compliance Requirements (§63.11173)

According to Ms. Hockman, this facility does not utilize any MeCl containing material and does not conduct any paint stripping operations. Ms. Hockman also stated that the only surface coating operations conducted by this facility are for motor vehicles and that the facility does not perform any spray coating operation meeting the definition of “miscellaneous surface coating operation” as defined in 40 CFR § 63.11180.

Requirements Applicable to Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Surface Coating Operations (§63.11173(e) except §63.11173(e)(1))

A facility which is subject to 40 CFR 63 Subpart HHHHHH and which engages in motor vehicle surface coating operations must meet the requirements 40 CFR 63.11173(e)(1) through §63.11173(e)(5).

§63.11173(e)(2) specifies a requirement that all painting be applied in a spray booth that meets the requirements of paragraph (e)(2)(i) of this section **and either** paragraph (e)(2)(ii), (e)(2)(iii), or (e)(2)(iv) of section §63.11173. The paint bay, as Ms. Hockman referred to it, can be seen in **Appendix B**; photos 2, 3, 4 and 5. According to Mr. Stephens, the process for painting is to seal up the doors and close the garage roll up door, then to place a filter over the exhaust fan on the wall (visible in photo 3 of **Appendix B**), before spraying. The doors and garage roll up door would then be opened to allow the paint to dry. A vehicle and associated parts had recently been painted and were drying while I was on-site.

§63.1173(e)(2)(i) requires that the spray booth must be fitted with a specific type of filter demonstrated to achieve at least 98% capture of paint overspray. I asked Mr. Stephens to see the type of filter which used. Mr. Stephens replied that they had just run out of filters and that someone needed to reorder them. I asked if they could show me the type of filter they used or the packaging for it and neither Mr. Stephens nor Ms. Hockman could identify the specific filter which they had been using.

A spray booth used to refinish complete motor vehicles must meet the requirements specified in §63.1173(e)(2)(ii). As seen in **Appendix B**, photo 2, G & C is using the spray booth for refinishing complete motor vehicles. The spray bay in use at G & C is enclosed with a full roof and 3 walls and a roll-up garage door. According to Mr. Stephens and Ms. Hockman, the spray bay is not under negative pressure. There is no equipment in the spray booth which could be used to generate negative pressure.

§63.1173(e)(3) specifies the requirements for the spray coating application gun used. The spray gun used by G & C is shown in **Appendix B**, photo 2. An operation manual for this spray gun identifies it as an “EPA compliant atomizing (HVLV) technology.” This manual is included as **Appendix C**.

§63.1173(e)(4) identifies acceptable methods for cleaning the spray gun. I asked Mr. Stephens to demonstrate the cleaning of the spray gun. **Appendix B**, photo 6 was taken during this demonstration. Mr. Stephens said that he holds the gun above a bucket and flushes solvent through the gun. Mr. Stephens said that no pressure or power is applied during this process.

Requirements for Training (§63.1173(e)(1), §63.1173(f) & §63.1173(g))

§63.1173(e)(1) specifies certification requirements for painters. Ms. Hockman told me that the majority of the painting at G & C is done by Mr. Stephens. I asked Mr. Stephens whether he was certified and if either he or G & C could produce documentation of his certification. Mr. Stephens responded that he had been trained and probably certified a long time ago when he completed paint and body school, a technical program for auto collision repair. Mr. Stephens did not have documentation for the completion of this training program and was doubtful that relevant documentation could be procured so long after that fact.

§63.1173(f) contains the specific requirements for the training program. I asked Mr. Stephens if he could identify the specifics of the training he completed during paint and body school and he could not. I asked Ms. Hockman if G & C could certify that the painters employed by G & C were trained in accordance with §63.1173(f) requirements and she responded that G & C does not have a spray coating training program for its employees.

§63.1173(g) contains the dates by which employees must be trained. §63.1173(g)(3) specifies that an employee training and certification are valid for 5 years. Mr. Stephens told me that he was trained during paint and body school more than 5 years previously and has not been retrained since that time.

Notifications and Reports (§63.11175 & §63.11176)

Ms. Hockman informed me that the facility management was unaware of the existence of this regulation and therefore did not submit the initial notification or the notification of compliance status. Further, they have not submitted annual notification of change reports which would have been required during years when a deviation from either § 63.11173(a) through (d) or §63.11173(e) through (g) would have occurred.

Recordkeeping Requirements (§63.11177)

In accordance with §63.11177, the owner or operator of a surface coating operation must keep the records specified in paragraphs (a) through (d) and (g) of section §63.11177.

The facility could not produce records of the certification that each painter has completed the training specified in §63.11173(f) with the dates of both the initial training and the most recent refresher training was completed. [§63.11177(a)]

The facility could not produce records documenting the filter efficiency of any spray booth exhaust filter material, according to the procedure in §63.11173(e)(3)(i). [§63.11177(b)]

Documentation was obtained that the spray gun in use meets the definition of an HVLP spray gun. [§63.11177(c)]

The facility could not produce copies of any notification submitted as required by §63.11175 and copies of any report submitted as required by §63.11176. [§63.11177(d)]

The facility could not produce records of any deviation from the requirements in §63.11173, §63.11174, §63.11175, or §63.11176. These records must include the date and time period of the deviation, and a description of the nature of the deviation and the actions taken to correct the deviation. [§63.11177(g)]

Potential Finding 1: Spray booth does not meet requirements of §63.1173(e)(2)(i)
Observation Summary: Spray booth missing filter or filter not demonstrated to be in compliance with 98% capture efficiency requirement.
Citation: §63.1173(e)(2)(i)
Evidence: Facility could not produce filter meeting requirement of 98% capture efficiency.
Description of Observation: I asked the facility to produce a filter or identify the filter in use and the facility could not produce a filter or identify the filter they claimed to use.

Potential Finding 2: Spray booth does not meet requirements of §63.1173(e)(2)(ii)
Observation Summary: Spray booth is not under negative pressure.
Citation: §63.1173(e)(2)(ii)
Evidence: Paint booth missing equipment necessary to make it negative pressure.
Description of Observation: Ms. Hockman informed me that the spray booth is not under negative pressure. There is no equipment in the spray booth which could generate negative pressure. See Appendix B , photos 2, 3, 4 & 5.

Potential Finding 3: Painters not trained appropriately
Observation Summary: Facility could not certify that painters had been trained within appropriate time period.
Citation: §63.1173(e)(1)
Evidence: Facility could not produce records of training for painters.
Description of Observation: I requested records from the facility demonstrating that all painters had been trained and certified in accordance with §63.1173(f) and that certifications were current in accordance with §63.1173(g). The facility could not produce this documentation.

Potential Finding 4: Notifications not submitted
Observation Summary: Facility has not submitted required notifications.
Citation: §63.1175(a) & §63.1175(b)
Evidence: Facility has not submitted initial notification of compliance or the Notification of Compliance Status.
Description of Observation: Ms. Hockman stated that the facility was unaware of the existence of this regulation, or these requirements, and the facility has not submitted any notifications.

Potential Finding 5: Required Reports not submitted
Observation Summary: Facility has not submitted required Annual Notification of Changes Reports
Citation: §63.1176(a)
Evidence: Facility has not submitted any Annual Notification of Changes Reports
Description of Observation: Annual Notification of Change Reports are required when deviations from § 63.11173(a) through (d) or § 63.11173(e) through (g) occur. The facility has not submitted any Annual Notification of Change Reports.

Potential Finding 6: Required records not available.
Observation Summary: Facility was unable to produce requested records
Citation: §63.11177(a), §63.11177(b), §63.11177(d) & §63.11177(g)
Evidence: Facility could not produce requested records
Description of Observation: The facility could not produce records of the certification that each painter has completed the training specified in §63.11173(f). The facility could not produce records documenting the filter efficiency of any spray booth exhaust filter material. The facility could not produce copies of any notification submitted. The facility could not produce records of any deviation from the requirements.